ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: I have an announcement to make. Under Rule 79 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, soon after the commencement of each financial year, a committee on Public Accounts has got to be constituted. Of the three non-official members of the Committee, two have to be elected by the non-official members of this House and one by the non-official members of the other House. Similarly, three non-officials have also to be elected to the Standing Finance Committee, two from this House and one from the other.

The practice, I understand, in the past has been to conduct the election by ballot. As the two Committees have to be constituted at the commencement of each financial year, a day has to be fixed for the election of the members from this House during this session of the Assembly. I have therefore to fix a date and hour as well as the method of election. I think it will be convenient to Honourable members if I should fix Friday, the 2nd August, immediately after the business of the House is over, for the purpose of conducting the elections. The elections will, as in the past, be by ballot and the elections would be proceeded with either by the Deputy President or one of the gentlemen who are in the panel of chairmen, whoever happens to be present at the time. I considered it neceessary to make as early an announcement as possible for obvious reasons.

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND II—PUBLIC WORKS—(*contd.*)

PRESIDENT: The next business is voting on demands for grants When the House adjourned yesterday, motion No. 160 was under discussion.

Motion No. 160. (*contd.*)

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKER (*Shertala II*): Sir, I have very great pleasure to support the motion before the House. It is a matter of common knowledge that the rural parts of Travancore lack in sufficient means of communication. Year after year, funds are being allotted in the Public Work Department Budget for the construction of roads, bridges, and culverts; and we have, Sir, a large number of Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Sub-Division Officers and Section Officers. But in spite of the fact that the department has a full army of able and competent men, the funds that are being sanctioned for the works are being allowed to lapse year after year.

Sir, it is a matter of great regret that my constituency, I mean the taluk of Shertala, lacks very much in the matter of means of communication. Repeated representations have been made both by representation on the floor of this House and by memorials presented to the succeeding Dewans of Travancore that we should be provided with sufficient meaus of communication; and though the Government have been pleased to sanction funds, though not in full, at least to a certain extent

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